

New TSM–Soldier Office Established at Fort Knox Bolsters Transformation Effort

The Army's Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) has recently established, at Fort Knox, the office of TRADOC System Manager–Soldier/Mounted Warfare, which will be responsible for combat vehicle crewmen force modernization requirements. The new Knox team will work together with the Armor Center and the Directorate of Force Development to shape the mounted force transformation.

ATSM–Soldier/Mounted Warrior supports all soldiers who serve as crewmembers on combat vehicle platforms and is at the forefront of determining, articulating, prioritizing, and validating mounted crewman requirements. The Mounted Warrior Soldier System (MWSS) is a "system of systems" approach to equipping the mounted crewman to fight, survive, and win. Soldier systems are analogous to any major platform system consisting of many component parts that must work in harmony to be effective. This concept recognizes the mounted soldier as the key element within the most sophisticated platform system and organizational design.

The system will be used by armor, cavalry, infantry, engineers, artillery, air defense artillery, chemical, military police, and ordnance military occupational specialties. Initially, Mounted Warrior efforts will be focused on the development, testing, and fielding of a cordless communications system and a head-up display. The cordless communication system will solve an age-old problem experienced by crewmembers: losing intercom and radio access when the spaghetti cord inadvertently becomes disconnected from the vehicle's communications system. This

capability will also allow the dismounted crewmember, while at an observation post or conducting other dismounted duties, to transmit and receive within the command and control structure of their platoon/company. Of greater importance, by using the cordless C2 link, the mounted and dismounted soldier will now be fully capable of coordinating the fight while allowing the dismounted soldier to direct fire and maneuver in response to the on-ground situation.

The head-up display will provide the vehicle commander the capability to view platform situational awareness information and command and control the platform during out-of-hatch operations. Platform lethality is increased with the ability to expand situational awareness, to coordinate the fight between mounted and dismounted soldiers, and to extend target acquisition and fire control to the vehicle commander. Mounted Warrior will operate with other soldier systems initiatives and will ensure commonality and interoperability.

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